



■ UNITED STATES SENATOR ■

Frank Lautenberg

NEW JERSEY

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SENATOR LAUTENBERG JOINS HOUSING SECRETARY CUOMO TO ANNOUNCE \$35 MILLION IN HOUSING GRANTS FOR NEWARK and ATLANTIC CITY

Newark, NJ - Today, Senator Frank Lautenberg and Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Andrew Cuomo announced that the Newark Housing Authority and the Atlantic City Housing Authority will each receive \$35 million in HOPE VI grants. The grant money was presented to the cities at an event on Wednesday.

HOPE VI grants are federal grants designed to revitalize distressed public housing developments. The resources provided for Newark and Atlantic City will be used to replace high-rise housing projects with low-rise and townhome developments.

The following are Senator Lautenberg's remarks at the announcement with Secretary Cuomo:

"Good morning, and thank you all for coming. This is a great day for two of our most important cities -- and for everyone who has looked forward to a new start for these communities. I'm very grateful that HUD listened to me and to all the other people who pushed for these grants as a new beginning for our most distressed public housing projects.

"Newark is on the way back. And people in the Central Ward are playing an important role in the city's rebirth. They're turning empty lots into gardens and building new parks. They're taking the streets back from the drug dealers. This Hope VI money is just that -- hope for a new Newark. It will help create an open, liveable community where people aren't stacked on top of each other like cordwood. Where they won't have to deal with the stigma attached to the term "housing project."

"It will help replace broken-down elevators, crumbling bricks and iron fences with a neighborhood that thrives on its connections to the communities around it. Where children have real playgrounds to play in. Where elderly people can walk safely at night to a new community center. Where small businesses will see opportunity instead of decay.

"Newark has come a long way in the past few years. The city's new Performing Arts Center is already changing the way people in the suburbs view the city's downtown. The Hope VI money will keep that momentum going -- by helping to build two new community centers and new streets. By helping to completely change the direction of downtown housing.

"The same rebirth is taking place in Atlantic City. In the Shore Park neighborhood, the Hope VI money will spur job training, educational opportunities, child care services and playing fields. In both communities, residents will find new reasons and new opportunities to be self-sufficient -- to finally feel connected to the communities around them.

"Community leaders in both Newark and Atlantic City deserve tremendous credit for putting together a solid plan to win these highly competitive grants. And of course Secretary Cuomo knows how grateful we are for this long-awaited chance to build real neighborhoods in these communities. Since 1993, the Hope VI program has engineered dramatic turnarounds in some of the most distressed public housing developments in this country. I know that the rebirth of Stella Wright and Shore Park will do the program proud.

"Now I'd like to introduce Secretary Cuomo -- one of the ablest men in this Administration. Secretary Cuomo literally reinvented HUD. His programs have cracked down on waste and fraud while increasing our nation's supply of affordable housing and generating economic development.

"Secretary Cuomo, thanks for everything you've done for New Jersey."

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